

May 22, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso

Chairman

Committee on Environment and Public Works

U.S. Senate

Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper

Ranking Member

Committee on Environment and Public Works

U.S. Senate

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

We, the undersigned organizations are very pleased with your commitment and leadership in the development of S. 2800, America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018. In particular, we offer our support for a provision authored by Senator Inhofe (R-OK) included in the Chairman's substitute amendment that will improve U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) transparency by establishing a publicly available national database of Corps real estate assets.

The Corps currently possesses or is responsible for the management of substantial land holdings. The district offices are currently preparing a digital system for disclosing their land holdings, but only at the district or regional level and not accessible to the public. It is currently difficult for project proponents to determine where and whether Corps real estate interests exist because they are not clearly identified in a database or record.

We support the provision to establish a publicly available central portal for those disclosures so that all stakeholders can more easily view the depth and breadth of the Corps' holdings. This public database would alert potential applicants of the need to obtain special authorization in a given area and would relieve the Corps of the need to enumerate its real estate interests every time a prospective applicant requests this information.

The establishment of a Corps real estate database reflects good Government and optimizes resource requirements for applicants and the Corps. We look forward to continuing to work with you on S. 2800, America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018.

Sincerely,

American Petroleum Institute

Associated General Contractors

National Waterways Conference

Waterways Council, Inc.